

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 02930 161932Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5687

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2930

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.)

SUBJECT: TODMAN VISIT TO GUYANA: MEETING WITH BURNHAM

REF: GEORGETOWN'S 2910 AND PREVIOUS

1. THIS CABLE TRANSMITS SUGGESTED SUBJECTS WHICH AMBASSADOR TODMAN SHOULD RAISE WITH PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM OR WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER MAY RAISE WITH HIM. BURNHAM'S USUAL PATTERN IN MEETING VISITORS FOR THE FIRST TIME IS TO HAV A "TOUR DE HORIZON" CONCERNING AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, EAST-WEST RELATIONS, DISARMAMENT, NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS, BEFORE FOCUSING IN ON GUYANA AND US-GUYANA RELATIONS. BURNHAM USES THESE INITIAL EXCHANGES AS A WAY OF TESTING AND TAKING THE MEASURE OF HIS VISITORS.

2. SUBJECTS WHICH AMBASSADOR TODMAN SHOULD RAISE ARE:
--- MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. BURNHAM WILL BE MOST ANXIOUS FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE TIMING OF HIS REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. HE HAS DEFERRED RESPONDING TO INVITATIONS THAT HE VISIT MOSCOW AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS BECAUSE OF A DESIRE TO VISIT WASHINGTON FIRST. HE HAS HIGH HOPES OF BEING RECEIVED AT THE WHITE HOUSE SOMETIME EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR.

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-- STATUS OF PL 480. GUYANESE LEADERS BELIEVE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PTOLEMY REID RECEIVED A FIRM COMMITMENT ON THE EARLY SHIPMENT OF PL 480 ASSISTANCE TO GUYANA FROM VICE PREISDENT MONDALE IN WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER. AMBASSADOR TODMAN WAS PRESENT DURING THAT MEETING AND HE WILL BE EXPECTED TO TELL BURNHAM WHERE THE MATTER STANDS NOW.

-- STATUS OF CONSULTATIONS ON REGIONAL COOPERATION.
THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD DESCRIBE WHAT HAS OCCURRED TO DATE
AND OUTLINE US VIEWS ON FUTURE PROSPECTS, PARTICULARLY
TIMING.

--SOUTHERN AFRICA. REITERATE US POLICY TOWARD
RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA AND OUTLINE CURRENT
STATUS OF ANGLO-AMERICAN EFFORTS ON RHODESIA.

--PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD EXPRESS
APPRECIATION FOR GUYANA'S PRESENCE AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY
AND GRATIFICATION OVER GUYANA'S ACCESSION TO THE
DECLARATION OF PANAMA. BURNHAM WILL BE VERY INTERESTED IN
LEARNING WHAT THE CURRENT PROSPECTS ARE FOR SENATORIAL
RATIFICATION OF THE TREATIES.

--HUMAN RIGHTS. US POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE
REITERATED. ALTHOUGH GUYANESE LEADERS GENERALLY HAVE
WELCOMED US INITIATIVES ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BURNHAM HAS
PUBLICLY INDICATED THAT EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON
THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF HUMAN RIGHTS SUCH AS THE RIGHT TO
EAT, TO WORK, TO BE EDUCATED AND TO HAVE ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE.

3. SUBJECTS WHICH THE AMBASSADOR MIGHT RAISE:

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-- THE GOG'S ATTITUDE TOWARD FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTMENT.
A DRAFT CODE WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC PRIVATE INVESTMENT REPORTEDLY IS
READY FOR FINAL APPROVAL. GUYANESE OFFICIALS REPEATEDLY
HAVE TOLD US THAT FOREIGN PRIVATE CAPITAL WOULD BE
WELCOME UNDER SPECIFIED CONDITIONS. UNFORTUNATELY,
THEY TEND TO ASSUME THAT FOREIGN INVESTORS ARE EAGER
TO INVEST IN GUYANA. WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO IMPRESS
UPON THEM THE REALITY THAT, IF THEY WANT FOREIGN PRIVATE
INVESTMENT, THEY WILL HAVE TO MAKE AN ACTIVE EFFORT
TO ATTRACT IT.

-- THE CURRENT STATUS OF GUYANA'S RELATIONS WITH
VENEZUELA, BRAZIL, AND SURINAM.

-- STATUS OF GOG DISCUSSIONS WITH THE IMF AND WORLD BANK.

-- CURRENT STATE OF CARICOM.

-- EFFECT OF THE SUGAR STRIKE ON GUYANA'S ECONOMY.

-- PLANS FOR 1978 ELECTIONS.

-- STATUS OF GUYANA'S RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

4. GUYANESE LIGHTWEIGHT BOXER LENNOX BLACKMOORE WON THE COMMONWEALTH BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP IN HIS WEIGHT DIVISION ON OCTOBER 2. BURNHAM WENT TO THE AIRPORT TO WELCOME BLACKMORE BACK TO GUYANA AND PARTICIPATED IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE RETURNING HERO'S VICTORY. THE AMBASSADOR MIGHT WISH TO SHOW AWARENESS OF BLACKMOORE AND HIS VICTORY.
BURKE

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